

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

and  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection  
Division of Agr'l Statistics  
and  
Agricultural Extension Service  
of Nebr. College of Agr.

### NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 4/19/49 11:00 a.m.

Week Ending 4/18/49

WEATHER Temperatures averaged near normal for the week, with rather warm weather during the first 2 to 3 days, and cool weather later. Moderate to heavy rain or wet snow fell over the eastern half of the State Thursday, but precipitation was only light to moderate over the western half. Snowfall averaged from 5 to 7 inches over a belt extending from the Hastings-Geneva area northeastward and northward almost to the State border.

CROPS Spring planting was delayed further in the eastern two-thirds of the state from the heavy precipitation. Had it not been for the heavy rain and snow, most of the spring grain would have been seeded. But as a result, only 54% of the oats, 37% of the barley and 70% of the spring wheat was seeded up to last Saturday. Less than 1/3 of the potatoes were planted in eastern Nebraska.

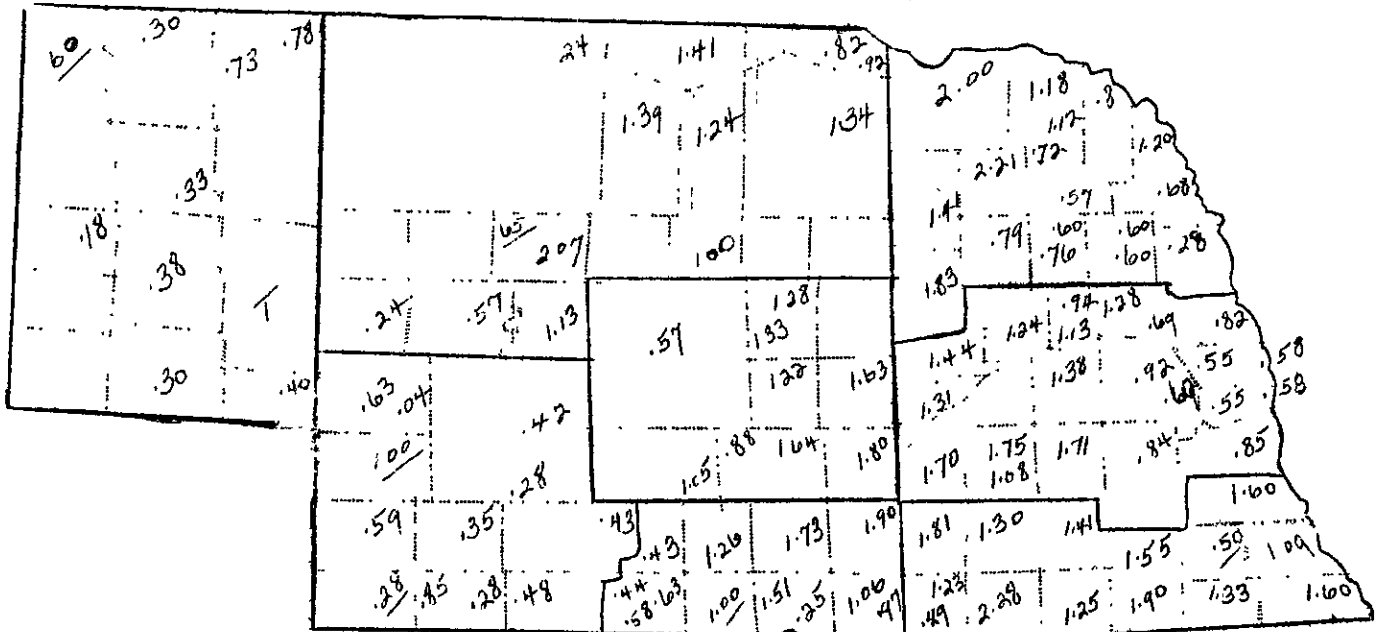
Winter wheat in much of the eastern third of the state that showed up green after the thaw and turned brown by the close of March, has made no recovery and is absolutely gone. While practically all winter wheat in the eastern third of the state is damaged, the area of greatest damage extends from Clay, Fillmore and Saline Counties northeastwardly to Platte, Dodge and Saunders Counties. In the center of this area, the abandonment will be exceedingly heavy. Generally that which will be left is thin and cannot yield satisfactorily.

No doubt the loss of winter wheat was due to a combination of factors. It is apparent however, that ice alone did not kill wheat because in the worst damaged areas wheat on the terraces where soil conservation is practiced was not killed. Also on level fields, back furrows from disking which raised the ground a little higher, the wheat was not killed, while between the raised places wheat was dead. The heavy rain early in January, saturated the soil completely, excluding all air and the freezing rain about the 23rd of January formed an ice coating on this water-logged, frozen soil which was covered by snow later in January, that preserved the ice for a month or more, excluding all air. The most complete kill of winter wheat occurred in the lower spots of the fields. On terraces and back furrows, wheat survived much better because of the drainage since it had the same amount of ice covering as the balance of the field. However, there were other spots where the field could have drained and where wheat was killed out just as badly. Also, low temperatures after wheat had lost its winter-hardiness is a factor. Wheat covered by snow along the snow fences generally survived. Where the soil was saturated with moisture, this together with the ice coating excluded all air and was about the equivalent of standing water. In 1917, the situation was exactly the opposite being a dry winter with loose soil, high winds and low temperatures. That winter the only wheat that survived in eastern Nebraska was the extreme southeastern area where the ice coating was the heaviest.

Some of the alfalfa, especially the older stands, suffered severe damage from winter-kill and much of it will have to be abandoned sooner or later if not now. The damage is greatest in the same area where the winter-kill of wheat was the heaviest. Most of the balance of the unpicked corn was harvested last week. The preparation of land and planting of beets and peas for canning continues in western Nebraska. Farmers indicate the planting of considerable safflower in Kimball and Morrill Counties. The flat land between Saline and Seward Counties westward to Clay and Hamilton Counties has many ponds of water in the low places. There are literally thousands of ducks on these ponds of water. Shelterbelts were damaged badly by winter snow storms.

LIVESTOCK Pastures are a little late because temperatures have not been high enough. Apparently, there are many cattle on feed in the farm feed lots in eastern Nebraska where there is large quantities of corn on the farm.

# PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 1949



## HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES ( for 24 hours ending 6:30 a.m. )

A pril

12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th

Max Min Max Min Max Min Max Min Max Min Max Min Max Min Max Min

NW	Chadron	76	39	69	42	44	33	50	23	63	31	72	-	60	22
	Scottsbluff	73	32	75	42	54	30	48	24	61	33	74	34	62	30
	Sidney	69	30	77	38	47	30	48	21	60	29	73	33	64	27
N-C	Burwell	66	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Valentine	72	43	73	42	49	32	48	23	54	33	72	41	55	24
NE	Norfolk	64	43	74	48	-	-	41	31	47	29	62	44	56	29
	Sioux City	68	34	76	43	74	35	40	31	46	27	58	28	45	28
Cen.	Grand Island	62	40	72	42	65	32	40	28	46	33	70	44	59	28
E-C	Lincoln	65	41	72	50	76	37	49	34	48	33	67	39	58	31
	Omaha	65	40	73	49	74	40	48	33	46	31	62	45	58	31
SW	H ayes Center	65	36	79	44	55	32	49	25	60	30	77	43	65	31
	North Platte	66-	39	79	44	54	32	49	26	60	33	75	43	57	27

## WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 18 , 1949

Eastern Division		Eastern Div., Cont'd.		Central Division		Western Division	
Albion	.94	Hastings	.97	B roken Bow	.17	Alliance	.21
Auburn	.68	Lincoln	.65	Burwell	-	Chadron	.29
Beatrice	.94	N orfolk	.54	Cambridge	.06	Culbertson	T
Columbus	.78	Oakdale	.97	Holdrege	.61	Hayes Center	.06
Fairbury	.56	Omaha	.34	North Loup	.82	Kimball	-
Fairmont	.40	Red Cloud	.65	North Platte	.16	Scottsbluff	.17
Falls City	.90	St. Paul	1.05	O'Neill	.77	Sidney	.04
Fremont	.60	Tekamah	.78	Ravenna	1.09		
Grand Island	.94	Wakefield	-	Valentine	.23		
Hartington	.99	York	1.08				
Average this week		0.78		0.49		0.13	
Total since April 1		1.30		1.12		0.49	
Normal since April 1		1.27		1.18		1.00	